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Ruby May Beat Chair, Serve 8 Years or Less

DALLAS — UPI — Jack Ruby, condemned to death for slaying Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's assassin, should be kept alive, district attorney Henry Wade said yetserday. He said he was willing to recommend the death sentence be commuted to life.

If he got a commutation, Ruby would be eligible for parole with 15 years' prison time credit, Wade said. That might be in as few as eight years behind bars.

RUBY

WADE

Ruby shot and killed Oswald as millions watched on television on Nov. 24, 1963. He was convicted of murder Mar. 14, 1964, and sentenced to death. He has been in the Dallas County jail since while his case was being appealed.

BUT RUBY'S lawyers do not want a commutation. They have the case in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and are holding out for a maximum five-year sentence for murder without malice.

Wade said yesterday at a news conference that there were several reasons he has changed his mind about wanting Ruby electrocuted.

"One reason is that we have plenty else (cases) to work on," he said. "Another reason is that we have spent $75,000-$100,000 on the case already and Jack Ruby is not worth that much more.

"Not all the questions about the assassination have been answered. Some people are still asking about it and I think it better to have him available.

"FINALLY, although he is sane, there is no question that Ruby has some neurotic tendencies that can be treated in the penitentiary."

Wade said he did not mean he doubted that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy, or that Ruby was acting alone.

He said he meant, rather, that people would ask questions about the case, whether there was any basis for them or not, and it would be a good thing if Ruby were alive to answer them.